



Artists in Residence in Everglades EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

Ana Mendez

Ana Mendez, born in Miami and a graduate from the University of Illinois, is a professional dancer and performance artist. She has danced for local choreographers and has also created work in collaboration with various visual artists and musicians. Her work has been presented by the Adrienne Arsht Center, Miami Light Project, BASS Museum, MAM and the de la Cruz Collection. In 2008, Mendez co-founded a performance collective Psychic Youth, Inc. with artist Federico Nessi in which she began exploring ritual and ceremony in performance. Her work has since evolved as a hybrid dance performance drawing from many rituals and traditions of Native American cultures, specifically in their use of the medicine wheel. She works intuitively and considers our relationship to the cycles of the moon, to nature and to death during the creation of a piece.

As a recreational hobby, Mendez is a bird watcher and a frequent visitor to Everglades National Park and Big Cypress Preserve. She is excited to explore her work further in its landscape. She plans to present a performance at the close of her residency.